

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 13, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Valarie Hodges, vice chairman
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Laurie Schlegel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Johnna Johnson, committee administrative assistant
Nevonda S. Reed, director
Felicie Jackson, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Mia Ditta, clerk
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Vice Chair Hodges in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 77, which creates a task force to study minimum wage. Rep. Carpenter presented a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in committee records.

Dawn McVea, National Federation of Independent Business, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 287-4626, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 77.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 453-7249, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 77.

Peter Robins Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N. 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 77.

Representative Cox offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 that would make technical changes. Representative Cox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support.

Chairwoman Carpenter in the chair.

House Bill No. 380 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 380, which provides relative to employee's contributions rate.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 453-7249, spoke for information only on House Bill 380.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 380 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 380 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support.

House Bill No. 610 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 610, which provides relative to the maximum weekly benefit amount and creates a back-to-work enhancement program.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 453-7249, spoke for information only on House Bill 610.

Renita Williams, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3822, spoke for information only on House Bill 380.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in support of House Bill No. 610.

Louis Reine, AFL-CIO, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 241-9725, spoke in support of House Bill No. 610.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to House Bill No. 610 that would make technical changes. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to House Bill No. 610 to:

1. Make technical changes.

2. Delete the proposed law that created a new determination for the maximum weekly benefit amount.
3. Change how the formula for computation of benefits is applied and calculated.
4. Provide an effective date of January 1, 2022.
5. Provide for an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount.
6. Restore provisions in present law that referred to the weekly benefit amount.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Phelps, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Echols offered amendments to House Bill No. 610 to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Create a back-to-work enhancement program to provide a monetary incentive for individuals who meet certain requirements.

Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Cox, Larvadain, and Phelps voted nay.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 610 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 610 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support.

Senate Bill No. 89 by Senator Reese

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 89, which provides for the unemployment insurance procedure to be applied by the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission for calendar year 2022.

Representative Frieman offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 89 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 89 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Cox, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Senator Reese

Senator Reese presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which suspends certain provisions of law relative to unemployment tax increases and benefit reductions.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 that would make technical changes. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Frieman offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Hodges, Amedée, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Senator Reese

Senator Reese presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which suspends the provision of law providing for an unemployment insurance solvency tax.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 63 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 63, which memorializes congress to modify the H-2B nonimmigrant program to assist with labor workforce shortage in the state.

Representative Robert Owen offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 63 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 63 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 180 by Representative Goudeau

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 180, which provides relative to unemployment compensation requirements.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 180. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 180 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Echols offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Barbara W. Carpenter
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: